

54 D 234
Fin-Sov Pact
Box 5436

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
REVIEWED BY EC
RDS ☐ of XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒ APR 12, 1948
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS ☐

SECRET

To : The Acting Secretary
Through : S/S
From : Mr. John D. Hickerson, Director, Office of
European Affairs
Subject : Press Conference--Finnish-Soviet Pact.

If questioned on this subject, it is recommended that you reply along the following lines: The Finnish-Soviet pact signed on April 6, 1948 is, as you know, somewhat more restricted in scope than the recently signed Soviet-Romanian and Soviet-Hungarian pacts. It would be premature to comment on a pact not yet ratified by the Finnish Diet which is expected to consider it this week.

Off the Record for Correspondents:

If questioned further about the matter, it is recommended that you comment off the record along the following lines: The Department understands that the pact follows more closely the terms of the Finnish counterproposal than the terms of the Russian proposal. The Finns, therefore, seem to have been reasonably successful in limiting the scope of the treaty. The implementation of Article 2 of the pact concerning consultation in case of a threat of aggression will perhaps furnish the key for an understanding of its significance. *significance and it is not clear how the Russians propose to implement it.*

Background for the Acting Secretary:

The Finnish-Soviet pact, signed on April 6, followed substantially the text of the Finnish counterproposal rather than the text of the Soviet proposal. The latter was much broader in scope. The pact is expected to be presented to the Finnish Diet for ratification this week. President Paasikivi in a radio address has made his

position

SECRET

page 2 missing

03140587030